



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/586,411	04/02/2007	Ramon Sans Rovira	TJA-145US	3139
23122	7590	11/12/2008	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA P.O. BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482				IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3765				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/12/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/586,411	ROVIRA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ismael Izaguirre	3765	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/19/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

SPECIFICATION

Abstract

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of its length. An Abstract should be limited to no more than 150. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

CLAIMS

Summary

Claim 1 is the independent claim under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 2-14 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller (4,877,487).

Miller teaches an ironing machine including at least one main roller 20 which is heated (column 1, line 17) and is rotatable for pressing an article against a series of planetary rollers 12, 14, 70 (figure 16, for example) which surround and press against the main roller by hydraulic means. A belt 24 is provided in a tensioned manner for moving the article being fed. The belt surrounds the planetary rollers, at least one of

which is a pressure roller (for example, rollers 12 and/ or 14 in figure 16). The article is moved between the belt and the main roller for removing wrinkles and water by a drive means which is provided for moving the belt (column 4, lines 49-51). Each pressure roller or planetary roller is provided with an axle which runs along the longitudinal length of the roller and presents two ends which are supported on bearings and on inclined planes 16 and 18. Other inclined planes are taught, as in figures 3, 5, and 10, which are all inclined relative to the center axis of the main roller. The main roller and the pressure roller form a nip plane and from this an imaginary tangential plane can be extended. The points of connection with the inclined planes can also be traced and an imagery plane can be drawn which forms an angle with respect to the tangential plane. These two planes form a wedge resulting in force planes including at least one normal force derived from a weight of the pressure roller resulting in an ironing force component exerted by the pressure roller that is greater than a weight force, directed downwardly of the pressure roller, and a wedge effect resulting from the opposite rotations of the pressure roller and the main roller. Miller teaches an entry roller 12 (for example in figure 16) and an exit roller 14 opposite this. The article enters the machine through the gap formed between the belt at the entrance roller and is pressed by the main roller and then exits through the gap with the exit roller.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the

subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Krauss et al. (4,434,566).

Miller discloses the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of this document. Briefly, Miller teaches an ironing apparatus including a main roller with smaller pressure rollers surrounding the main roller and applying pressure to an article being ironed. The surrounding rollers are provided with a belt for guiding and feeding the article and applying a more uniform pressing action to the article. However, Miller does not suggest providing multiple or modular pressing machines in series connected to each other but formed with independent structures.

Krauss et al. teach at least three ironing roller apparatus 2, 11 and 25 including entrances and exits in connection with each other for feeding an article to be ironed. Krauss et al. teach each ironer including independent structure arranged in series for processing an article.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the arrangement of Miller as including at least three ironing apparatus connected in series. Providing such multiplicity of parts would assure a proper treatment of the articles being ironed. Providing three such apparatus would

speed up the treatment of the article cause it can be fed faster through the machines then it would through only one.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the regulating device of claims 5 and 9 must be shown or the feature cancelled from the claim. No new matter should be entered. Correction is required.

PERTINENT CITATIONS

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Miller illustrates a heated ironing drum with a belt therearound with rollers. Rose, Miculka et al. Gottwald et al. Brockardt and Kusters et al. illustrate main rollers with planetary rollers and belts. Vanderheyden illustrates a double arrangement of ironing rolls.

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Welch can be reached on (571) 272-4996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ismael Izaguirre/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3765